ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for signing and validating web pages. In one embodiment, a web page that includes a trigger is digitally signed with a private key to provide a digital signature. The web page, digital signature, and a digital

5   certificate are transmitted from a first computer system to a second computer system. On the second computer system, in response to the trigger, the digital signature is automatically verified using a public key corresponding to the private key. An object may optionally be transmitted with the web page from the first computer system to the second computer system. The object includes a plug-in,

10 code, etc. The trigger includes a flag, variable, one or more lines of code, or subroutine that may be embedded or incorporated in, or appended to the web page, or a header of the web page.